

10/560634

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 DEC 2003

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL

**To Commissioner For Patents:**

Enclosed herewith is a Form PTO-1449, any required copies of documents listed thereon, and any concise explanation of their relevance is indicated below per 37 CFR 1.97.

<i>Application Number</i>	
<i>Filing Date</i>	
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	MUTSAERS et al.
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	
<i>Examiner Name</i>	
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	NL 030673

Please charge any required fee under §1.17(i) or §1.17(p) or any other required fee (except the issue fee) to Account No. 14-1270.

1.  I certify that these documents were first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months ago.
  2.  I certify that none of these documents were cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, none of these documents was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three (3) months ago.
- Applicant hereby petitions under §1.97(d) that this IDS be considered after final Action or Notice of Allowance, pays the fee under §1.17(p) as indicated below, and I certify 1. or 2. as indicated above.
- A fee under §1.17(p) is not required under §1.97(c), after the first Action on the merits and more than (3) months after the date of application or RCE, because I certify 1. or 2. as indicated above.
- A copy of the citations is not required because they were previously submitted or cited in the parent application (or in U.S. patent application Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_, Filing Date \_\_\_\_\_ relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120).
- A copy of the U.S. patent(s) and patent application publication(s) in all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, and in all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC § 371 after June 30, 2003 under 37 CFR 1.491(b), are not required.
- A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English document, as understood by the individual designated in §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the contents, is enclosed per §1.98(a)(3).

The concise explanation of the relevance of any document, as understood by the individual designated in §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the contents, is that the document is/was:

- cited in the specification or considered in drafting the specification of this application;
- previously submitted or cited in the parent application (or in a related patent application Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_, Filing Date: \_\_\_\_\_);
- cited as an "X", "Y", or "A" document in a foreign Patent Office search report in a foreign counterpart application.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print Type)	Daniel J. Piotrowski	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	42,079
Signature			
Date	12/11/03		

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	
		Filing Date	
		First Named Inventor	MUTSAERS et al.
		Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	NL 030673

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
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<sup>1</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>2</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>3</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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